

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer implemented method of managing electronic documents comprising:
storing a plurality of electronic documents in a database;
associating a first one or more of the plurality of electronic documents to a first case;
associating a second one or more of the plurality of electronic documents to a second case;
receiving a select signal from a user, the select signal selecting at least one of the second one or more of the plurality of electronic documents associated with the second case to be associated with the first case; and
associating the at least one of the second one or more of the plurality of electronic documents to the first case in response to the select signal.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying the second case and links to the second one or more of the plurality of electronic patent documents to a user.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein displaying the second case further comprises displaying a third case and links to a third one or more of the plurality of electronic patent documents to a user, the third case being associate with the third one or more of the plurality of electronic patent documents.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying document references for the first and second one or more of the plurality of electronic documents associated with the first and second cases, respectively, in individual rows of a first column, and displaying first and second case identifiers at the top of second and third columns, wherein the rows of the second column include a marker when the electronic document corresponding to the row is associated with the first case, and wherein the rows of the third column include a marker when the electronic document corresponding to the row is associated with the second case.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the first case and second case are related cases.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the first case and second case have a common inventor.

1 7. The method of claim 5 wherein the first case and second case have the
2 same assignee.

1 8. The method of claim 5 wherein the second case relates to a
2 continuation patent application of the first case.

1 9. The method of claim 5 wherein the second case relates to a
2 continuation-in-part patent application of the first case.

1 10. The method of claim 5 further comprising displaying a search screen to
2 search for additional cases related to the first case.

1 11. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of
2 electronic documents is an electronic version of a United States Patent.

1 12. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of
2 electronic documents is an electronic version of a foreign patent document.

1 13. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of
2 electronic documents is an electronic version of a publication.